AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended) A recording medium storing a program of instructions executable by a computer to control the computer to function as an electronic ~~Electronic~~ editor for a calculation formula ~~formulae~~ for calculating the price of a service ~~designed to define~~ by defining said calculation formula in a format directly readable by an electronic costing system, the electronic costing system establishing ~~being designed to establish~~, with the aid of said calculation formula, the price of a service using information on the service consumed contained in consumption variables, said editor comprising:

- an electronic calculator ~~capable of~~ defining the calculation formula and storing [[it]] the defined calculation formula in ~~the~~ a first information storing means ~~for storing information~~,

wherein the calculator comprises:

- an acquisition module ~~for~~ that acquires said calculation formula,

said calculation formula being in the form of a tree structure formed from nodes, the nodes connected to one another

by arcs, each node being associated with a pricing calculating operation ~~designed to be~~ executed by the costing system to establish the price of the service, ~~and the relationship between~~ the arcs ~~of the nodes~~ defining ~~the order~~, by ~~means of~~ an ordered relationship, an order in which said pricing calculating operations ~~have to be~~ are carried out by the electronic costing system, and

- a module ~~designed to convert~~ automatically converting the acquired tree structure into a directly readable format by the electronic costing system and storing ~~to store~~ the converted tree structure in the first information storing means ~~for storing information~~.

15. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 14, wherein the calculator further comprises a module ~~for displaying~~ that displays the tree structure during tree structure acquisition or when the tree structure is acquired.

16. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 14, wherein the acquisition module creates ~~is capable of creating~~, under the control of the user, a first-level node in said tree structure solely associated with an operation for activating child nodes of ~~this~~ said first-level node in response to receiving a new value for one of the consumption

variables processed by a calculation operation associated with one of the child nodes.

17. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 14, wherein the acquisition module creates ~~is capable of creating~~, under the control of the user, a first-level node in said tree structure, solely associated with the operation for activating [[its]] child nodes of the first-level nodes and the calculation operation associated therewith, at predetermined time intervals.

18. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 14, wherein the acquisition module creates ~~is capable of creating~~, under the control of the user, a processing node in said tree structure, solely associated with an operation for calculating a new value from the values of the consumption variables and pre-existing calculated variables and for allocating ~~this~~ the calculated new value to one of i) a consumption variable, ~~or to~~ ii) a pre-existing [[or]] variable, and a new calculated variable.

19. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 18, wherein the acquisition module creates ~~is capable of creating~~, under the control of the user, a decision node solely associated with a conditional activation operation of

all of [[its]] corresponding child nodes and the calculating operation associated therewith, using the value of a consumption variable or a calculated variable.

20. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 18, wherein the acquisition module creates ~~is capable of creating~~, under the control of a user, a split node solely associated with an operation for extracting from the value of a consumption variable or a calculated variable, a range of values either between a lower limit and an upper limit, or outside ~~these~~ the lower and upper limits, the child nodes processing the range of values extracted.

21. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 14, wherein the acquisition module creates ~~is capable of creating~~, under the control of a user, a node in the tree structure, solely associated with an operation for unit conversion of a calculated value.

22. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 14, wherein the acquisition module creates ~~is capable of creating~~, under the control of a user, an ending in the tree structure, solely associated with an operation for calculating a price and with an operation for stopping the costing system from passing through the tree structure.

23. (currently amended) A recording medium ~~Editor~~ according to claim 14, wherein ~~it~~ the editor further comprises second information storing means ~~for storing information~~ containing a library of pre-stored nodes associated respectively with pre-defined parameterisable operations and wherein the acquisition module comprises a sub-module for selecting nodes contained in the library, a sub-module for connecting nodes selected with the aid of the selection sub-module to a father node and a sub-module for parametering the parameterisable operations associated with the nodes of the library.

24. (currently amended) Electronic system for costing ~~designed to establish~~ automatically establishing the price of a service ~~from information on the service consumed~~, comprising:

~~contained in~~ a receiver storing consumption variables containing information on consumption of the service;

~~and with the aid of a calculation formula defined by an electronic editor according to any of the preceding claims, the system comprising:~~

~~a receiver for information on the service consumed capable of storing this information in the consumption variables means for~~

a storage element containing a calculation formula defined by an electronic editor comprising i) an acquisition module acquiring said calculation formula, the formula being in

the form of a tree structure formed from nodes, the nodes connected to one another by arcs, each node being associated with a pricing calculating operation executed by the costing system to establish the price of the service, the arcs defining, by an ordered relationship, an order in which said operations are carried out by the electronic costing system, and ii) a module automatically converting the acquired tree structure into a directly readable format by the electronic costing system and storing the converted tree structure in the storage element,

the storage element storing information containing the calculation formula defined by an electronic editor, the formula for calculating the price of the service using the information on consumption of the services stored in the receiver; and

~~, wherein it comprises~~

an electronic calculating unit ~~, capable of~~ configured for executing ~~the~~ operations associated with the nodes and endings of the calculation formula, in response to information received by the receiver so as to pass through the tree structure of the calculation formula from the root node to at least one of the endings by executing successively the conditional activation operation of the father nodes, then solely the conditional activation operations associated with the activated child nodes until at least one ending associated with an operation to calculate a price has been activated and to execute the ending to establish automatically the price of the service.

25. (currently amended) ~~Method for~~ A method defining a formula for calculating, on a computer, the price of a service in a directly readable format by an electronic costing system, the electronic costing system ~~being capable~~, with the aid of said formula, ~~of~~ establishing the price of a service from information on consumption of the service, ~~consumed~~ said information contained in consumption variables, said method comprising of steps of: ~~wherein it comprises:~~

- ~~an acquisition step) of~~ an electronic calculator acquiring said formula, said formula being ~~by an electronic calculator~~ in the form of a tree structure formed from nodes, the nodes connected to one another by arcs, each node being associated with [[an]] a pricing calculating operation ~~designed to be~~ executed by the electronic costing system to establish the price of the service, ~~and~~ the ~~relationship between~~ arcs ~~of the nodes~~ defining ~~the order~~, by ~~means of~~ an ordered relationship, an order in which said pricing calculating operations are ~~have to be~~ carried out by the electronic costing system; [[,]] and

- ~~an automatic conversion step by~~ the electronic calculator converting ~~of~~ said acquired tree structure ~~acquired in~~ into a format directly readable by the electronic costing system and storing the converted tree structure ~~in the means for storing information~~.

26. (currently amended) Method according to claim 25, wherein the acquisition step comprises:

- a sub-step of selecting a node in a library of pre-stored nodes, the pre-stored nodes being associated respectively with pre-defined parameterisable operations,

- a sub-step of connecting the selected node during the selection sub-step to a father node, and

- a sub-step of parametering the operation of the node connected to the father node during the connection sub-step.

27. (new) A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein the formulae for calculating the price includes conditional calculating rules having a form of:

if Condition 1 exists, then Action 1 takes place, where i) Condition 1 is a logical function of which the result is True or False, and ii) Action 1 is a mathematical function of the calculation of the price.